Product, which comprises output from Agriculture and allied activities, Industry including manufacturing sector and the Services sector. Industrial development therefore, is linked to overall economic development of the country.

Increase in crop-subsidy by America

†1379. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that America has enhanced the ceiling of 'crop subsidy' by Rs. 2500/- crores in contravention of WTO rules, which may make a direct impact on India and other developing countries;

(b) if so, whether doubt raised developing countries at WTO meeting at Doha provide to be true; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It is reported that the subsidies proposed in the US Farms Security and Rural Investment Act, 2002 would be of the order of US $ 180 billion in next ten years. The proposed increase in subsidy to agriculture in America would not be consistent with the spirit of Doha Ministerial Declaration where it was decided to engage into negotiations aimed at substantial improvement in market access; reduction of, with a view to phasing out all forms of export subsidies; and substantial reduction in trade distorting domestic support. Report are indicating the US Farm Security and Rural Investment Act, 2002 will have a price depressing effect on world markets. This may have negative effects for developing countries as well.

Growth Centres in Orissa

1380 MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state what are the details of growth centres scheme functioning in Orissa to promote industrialization in the backward areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH) : Under the Growth Centre Scheme four Growth Centres at Chhatrapur (Ganjam), Kalinganar-Dubri (Cuttatck), Jharsuguda (Jharsuguda) and Kesinga (Kesinga) have been sactioned in the State of Orissa and Central Assistance of Rs. 50 lakhs, 600 lakhs, 2000 lakhs and 125 lakhs respectively has been released to these Growth Centres. One Growth Centre *i.e.* Kesinga has become functional as allotment of industrial plots has commenced there.

Development of townships in NER

1381. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that four townships in the North-Eastern Region are proposed for creating congenial atmosphere to attract foreign investment;

(b) if so, the names of townships along with their States; and

(c) the details of amount sanctioned and released by the Central Government for the Development of these townships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) No, Sir. A new Industrial Policy and other concessions has been notified on 24th December, 1997 for development of industry in the NE Region.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Programme for welfare of salt workers

1382. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any programme for the welfare of salt workers in the country, specially in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof and funds allocated for the purpose during the last three years; and

(c) the steps being initiated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH) : (a) and (b) The implementation